

## Nigerian President Meets With CUTEC Delegation

*Nigeria's President Obasanjo is given a duplicate sword of King Karl The Great*

CUTEC has aimed at presenting its environmental programme to the governing body of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for approval. This unique environmental institute earlier sent senior managers on different occasions to some Nigerian states to intimate them with the local environmental situation. On 25 August 2003, President Obasanjo of Nigeria received Dr. Theodore Onyeche (CUTEC's manager for international operations) and Engr. Werner Siemers (CUTEC's technical manager) in Abuja, Nigeria. Some ministers and top officials of the federal government and FCT were also present. The intensive but cordial meeting which highlighted CUTEC's interest in solving Nigeria's environmental problems was attended by President Obasanjo, Minister for FCT, Minister for Environment, Minister for Information, special advisers and assistants to the

President, the State Secretaries for Science and Planning and others.

CUTEC managerial and technical teams have patiently studied the environmental condition in Nigeria over the past years and professional decisions have been made by CUTEC's management to ensure sustainable and smooth transfer of adapted technologies to Nigeria with internationally accepted standards, discipline and local skill development. CUTEC has maintained good relationship with Nigeria even without any project because personal contacts with people from developing nations are more valued there than in industrialised nations. The Nigerian environment requires CUTEC's environmental services and international linkage and such meetings facilitate mutual understanding and trust.

After the official welcoming ceremony, the CUTEC delegation presented President Obasanjo a duplicate sword of King Karl The Great.

King Karl The Great is considered as the father of European unification and his sword is seen here as symbol of unity for Nigeria. On receiving the sword, the President jokingly warned that he would use the sword if his Ministers become uncooperative. Moreover, President Obasanjo stated that the sword should be seen as a symbol towards African unity – not as a weapon.



*Model of King Karl The Great's sword is presented.*

Thereafter, Dr. Onyeche presented a complete overview of CUTEC's profile and plans to assist Nigeria improve its poor environmental conditions. Dr. Onyeche emphasized the importance of adapted technologies for Nigeria instead of copying high technologies from industrialised nations which can not be locally maintained or even improved upon. There is the need to improve on Nigerian local technologies considering the local conditions and using the expertise from developed nations as foreign partners. He reiterated that CUTEC has such adaptable technologies and processes for the treatment of solid waste, water and wastewater, exhaust gases, contaminated soils as well as manpower development, environmental impact assessment and environmental awareness programmes.



*Dr. Onyeche and Mr. Siemers express appreciation for President Obasanjo's invitation.*



*Discussion of Nigeria's environmental problems with CUTEC's local representative, Mr. Obi, far left.*

Dr. Onyeche further stated that one of Nigeria's major environmental problems is the poorly controlled disposal of communal and industrial wastes. In the capital city Abuja, in Lagos and in the bigger regional cities, illegal and random waste dumping along streets and undeveloped plots are common. Engineered landfills with foundation sealing and collection and treatment of leachate or seepage water are not available in Nigeria. Waste dumps on open grounds damage the city scenery and cause unpleasant odours, disease-transmitting insects, flies and animals as well as contamination of ground water usually used for human consumption. Such dangerous waste disposal method has adverse effects on human lives and nature.

On responding to the excellent presentation, President Obasanjo positively welcomed CUTEC's environmental concept for Nigeria and requested that CUTEC considers an environmental project for Abuja as a model for further reference since it is the capital city and the major centre of attraction nationally and internationally. He also mentioned that

other cities like Lagos, Port Harcourt, Onitsha, Ibadan, etc also require such urgent attention. Others present praised CUTEC's approach for better environment and its suitability for Nigeria. The President thanked the CUTEC delegation for the interest in Nigeria and hoped for some follow ups. The minister for FCT, Mallam Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai, immediately invited the CUTEC delegation to his office the next morning for a meeting with his executives to discuss the approach for Abuja. At the meeting, the CUTEC delegation submitted a project proposal to the

impressed minister. The minister praised CUTEC for their rapid response to compile the proposal over night which demonstrates CUTEC's determination to serve in Nigerian environmental sector. CUTEC has the chance to operate in other cities in Nigeria and even in other African countries with the presidential recommendations.

After the visit, the CUTEC delegation returned with good prospects for some projects in Nigeria which may be executed in consortium with other Nigerian and German companies.



*Uncontrolled trash dumping of household waste on barren land in city.*

## The Sword of King Karl The Great



*Karl, son of the Franken King Pippin, was born in 742. In 768 Karl and his brother Karlmann II inherited their father's kingdom. Just three years later Karlmann died and Karl became the sole inheritor. Karl was a man with unusual ambition and intelligence.*

*Karl was not for wars but his fate never permitted him to lay down his battle sword for long. He fought against the Saxons for 30 years in order to convert them to Christianity and to force them to recognize his governance. His soldiers defeated the Sarazenen on the Iberian Peninsula and the Avaren in Hungary. Historians estimate that as many as 1 million people died in Karl's wars. In 800, Pope Leo III crowned Karl an emperor at St. Peters Cathedral in Rome. Karl was named the father of Europe during his time.*

*He encouraged and supported sciences, defended the Christian church and decreed for the building of churches, monasteries and schools.*

*Over the century his sword has been used to crown 23 kings and emperors.*

*The original sword is presently in the Louvre Museum in Paris and it is one of the most impressive and preserved swords.*

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